



## THE CHICAGO CALAMITY.

## THE FIRE EXTINGUISHED AT LAST.

FIVE HUNDRED LIVES REPORTED LOST—HEART-RENDING SCENES—TERRIBLE SUFFERING AMONG THE HOMELESS—SEVERAL INCENDIARIES HANGED BY THE CITIZENS—PROFFERS OF ASSISTANCE FROM EVERY DIRECTION—THE CITY TO BE REBUILT IMMEDIATELY.

CHICAGO, Oct. 10.—The fire continued to burn all last night on the North side, but this morning it is under control. It is literally true to say that there is nothing remaining of that side of the city, from the river North to Lincoln Park, and from the North Branch of the river on the West to the Lake on the East. This portion of the city, except along the main river, where there were business blocks, was occupied by dwellings. Two-thirds of the population of this district were German and Scandinavian. These people are now homeless, some of them being in frame buildings on the North-West Section, and others on the prairies without shelter.

Yesterday a renewal of the fire on the West Side was looked for, and a change of five degrees in the direction of the wind at any time would have led to that result. There would then have been no refuge for the sufferers. All had their clothing packed ready to start for the prairie at any moment, but at sundown the wind lulled, and at 3 o'clock this morning the rain, so fervently prayed for, came. It did not rain long, but the roofs of the houses and the ground now it is possible to have fires and cook food for the multitude.

A meeting of citizens was held in the First Congregational Church, in West Washington-st., which was continued throughout the night. Measures were concerted to protect what property was left, and provide for the homeless.

Messrs. Richards & Charles Craine of the North-Western Manufacturing Company contrived a plan, which has been put into execution, for providing water in case of fire breaking out at any time. The machinery of their works for that purpose, and their engine and boilers for pumping water from the river. Fifteen hundred citizens were sworn in last night as an extra police force, and the Secretary of War authorized Gen. Sheridan to employ all available troops for guard, and issued an order for 100,000 rations.

INCENDIARIES HANGED.

Five hundred soldiers are on duty. This precaution was necessary, for, remarkable as it may seem, there were friends who still sought to extend the disaster. Two men, caught in the act of firing houses on the West Side, were arrested and immediately hung to lamp-posts—one on Twelfth-st., near the river, and the other three miles away on Clayborne-ave., North Side. This summary action has checked the thieves and murderers.

## ARRIVAL OF FREEMEN FROM OTHER CITIES.

The arrival of firemen and engines from Milwaukee, St. Louis, and other cities has apparently restored confidence. The Cincinnati train arrived this morning with four engines—three from that city and one from Dayton. They were 17 hours on the way, having to change the route twice, and finally came via Piqua and Logansport. There was an inexpressible pleasure in seeing those experienced go to work in a business way, where work was most needed. They are playing on coal piles to save whatever fuel is possible, and prevent the further spread of the flames. The vast burned district is covered with people, wandering about seeing the evidences of a wealth that has completely vanished in flames and smoke.

## BUSINESS HOUSES REOPENING.

A few business men, with some nerve, are seeking houses for business in the West Side. Rooms that rented last week for \$50 now readily command \$5,000. There are not many of these, but enough to allow a few business men to start. The newspapers will be started again in a few days or weeks. The Hon. Joseph Medill of *The Tribune*, who is one of the heaviest sufferers, succeeded, yesterday, in leasing a brick building on Washington-st., at Tunnel. He also purchased two single cylinder presses used in a job office on the West Side, and has telegraphed East for paper and type, there being nothing left here. Mr. Story of *The Times* will erect a rough one-story building and begin the issue of that paper as soon as material can be procured. *The Journal* is provided for on the West Side. *The Post-Republican*, and *State Zeitung* will also arrange for business as soon as practicable, but everything must come from elsewhere. There is nothing left.

## PROVIDING FOR THE HOMELESS.

Water for drinking and household use is secured from the Lake and the parks, and for horses from the river. There are 1,000 people camped about the artesian well, four miles out, and perhaps as many more at the Lake, and by Fullerton and Victor-ave., near the prairie. The people are fed in the remaining churches, school-houses, in sheds, and by the road-sides. It was cold and chilly this morning, causing great suffering, but it is now clearing up again; but instead of this being welcome, the people are praying earnestly for more rain, so fearful are they of a continuance of the flames.

Women and children are going around the burned district, vainly seeking something to satisfy their hunger. What provisions there were in the city are now burned or eaten, and few have enough to last them even for a day. Provisions have arrived from Detroit, Cincinnati, Milwaukee, and St. Louis, and are distributed as fast as possible.

The suffering on the North Side is heart-rending to witness. Fifty thousand men, women, and children, huddled together like so many wild animals, and in other places 17,000 Germans and Irish, praying for relief, helpless children asking for bread; heart-broken parents who know not which way to turn or what to say, and nothing to do but wait the distribution of supplies, which, at best, must be a slow proceeding, as there are parts of districts over which it is almost impossible to travel—present indeed a harrowing scene.

## ORIGIN OF THE FIRE.

Different reports have been given of the origin of the terrible calamity, but the following is believed to be correct: Late on Sunday evening a boy went into a stable on Dekoven-st., near the river, on the West Side, to milk a cow, carrying with him a kerosene lamp. This was kicked over by the cow, and the burning fluid scattered among the straw. This was the beginning of the great fire. A single fire-

extinguisher on the ground, or active work by the police in tearing down one or two shanties, would have prevented the spreading of the flames; but the engines were waited for and when they arrived, the firemen, stupefied by their exertions at the fire on Saturday night, worked slowly and clumsily. Their efforts were unavailing, however, as the wind blew a gale from the south-west. The flames spread rapidly from house to house and from yard to yard, until the district burned the night before was reached. Meanwhile the flames had crossed the river north of Twelfth-st., to the South Side, and threatened the brick and stone business blocks, railroad freight depots, and manufacturing establishments.

## THE DANGER REALIZED WHEN TOO LATE.

The full extent of danger was then realized for the first time. The fire department, already tired out, worked like heroes, and the Mayor and City Government now began to exert themselves, but the opportunity had been lost. The time when thorough organization could have blown up buildings, or prepared for the emergency, was neglected, and it was now a fight for life. The wind blowing a stiff gale had possession of the flames, and the beautiful buildings, Chicago's glory, lay before them. Harrison, Van Buren, Adams, Monroe and Madison-sts. were soon reached, the intervening blocks from the river to Dearborn-st. on the east being consumed. Three-quarters of a mile of brick blocks were consumed as if by magic. It being Sunday proprietors and employees were at home utterly unconscious of what was taking place. Those who saw the light of this fire supposed it was the remains of Saturday night's fire, and, having confidence in the Fire Department, were unconcerned; but between 11 and 12 o'clock a rumor got abroad that the fire was in the business portion of the city. Then the people commenced moving. Horses were brought into requisition to take the proprietors and others to the conflagration. What a scene met their gaze! The Board of Trade, Court-House, Western Union Telegraph, and Associated Press office, and hundreds of other buildings were all in flames. The air was filled with live coals, which were hurled to the north and east, carrying destruction everywhere. The fire-engines were powerless for saving. All that men could do was to blow up buildings, but this availed little. *The Times*, *Tribune*, *Post-Republican*, *Journal*, and other newspapers, the Western News Company block, Field & Leiter's establishment, the Drake Block (recently built), Farwell & Co.'s, all were soon in ashes. It seemed that no sooner had the flames struck a wall than it went directly through, and a very few minutes sufficed to destroy the most elaborately built structure. The walls melted, and the very bricks were consumed.

## THE WOODEN PAVEMENT ON FIRE.

The wooden pavements even took fire, making a continuous sheet of flame two miles long by a mile wide. No human being could possibly survive many minutes. Block after block fell, and the red-hot coal shot higher and higher, and spread farther and farther, until the north side of Lake-st. was a vast sheet of flame from the river to the lake. At one time it seemed as if the people that it was expected thousands must perish. The Sherman, Fremont, and other hotels were emptied of their guests, and a remarkable sight presented itself in the hurrying throngs, with trunks, sashes, or bags on their shoulders, fleeing amid flames for their lives. Those who could made for the remaining bridges, others got next to the lake shore, and so south.

## AN ISLAND IN A SEA OF FLAME.

One block in all the vast business section remained at daylight—viz., *The Tribune* block. The Custom-House and Honore block, in Dearborn-st., had burned, and those who had fought the flames here thought at least this block could be saved. A patrol of men under Samuel Medill swept off live coals and put out fires in the side walls, and another gang of men, under the direction of the Hon. Joseph Medill, watched the roofs. At 7½ all appeared safe, and most of the men went to get rest or food. A number went to sleep on *The Tribune* building, but there was a change of wind. The flames reached Wabash-ave., State-st., and Michigan-ave., and soon McKevick's Theater caught fire. In a few moments *The Tribune* building was in flames, and at the last moment the sleeping men were aroused and rescued from the flames. By 10 o'clock in the forenoon this remaining block was in ashes.

## SEVENTY-FIVE THOUSAND PEOPLE FLEEING FOR THEIR LIVES.

Now was to be seen the most remarkable sight ever beheld in this or any country. There were from 50,000 to 75,000 men, women, and children fleeing by the available street and alley to the Southward and Westward, attempting to save their clothing and their lives. Every available vehicle was brought into requisition for use, for which enormous prices were paid. Thousands of persons intricately commingled with horses and vehicles, poor people of all colors and shades, and of every nationality—from Europe, China, and Africa—mad with excitement, struggled with each other to get away. Many were trampled under foot. Men and women were loaded with bundles, to whose skirts children were clinging, half-dressed and barefooted, all seeking a place of safety. Hours afterward, these people might have been seen in vacant lots, or on the streets far out in the suburbs, stretched in the dust. These are the homeless and destitute, who now call on the rich world for food and clothing. One of the most pitiful sights was that of a middle-aged woman on State-st., loaded with bundles, struggling through a crowd, singing the Mother Goose melody, "Chickery, Chickery, Crany Crow, I went to the well to wash my face."

There were hundreds of others likewise distracted, and many, made desperate by whisky or beer, which from excess of thirst and in the absence of water they drank in great quantities, spread themselves in every direction, a terror to all they met.

## FIVE HUNDRED LIVES LOST.

It is fearful to think of the loss of life. It is conjectured, and with good cause, that nearly 500 persons have been burned to death. Four men were seen to enter a burning building, and in a moment they were overwhelmed by a falling wall. There was a crowd of men around the corner of a building trying to save property, when the wall fell, burying some of them beneath it. About twelve or fifteen men, women, and children, rushed into the building of the Historical Society (a fire-proof building) for safety. In a few minutes the flames burst out, and they were burned to death. Among those who took refuge in this building was the venerable Col. Samuel Stone, 80 years of age, for a long time connected with the Society; also, John B. Gerard and wife, and Mad. Depelgrene, the noted teacher of music. It is feared that Dr. Frear and family were also burned, as they were burned to death. Among those who took refuge in this building was the venerable Col. 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